

important. It helps a number of young people who currently don't have that opportunity unless they happen to be located in a metropolitan area, as Senator Johnson mentioned, Senator Vard Johnson mentioned in a school such as a Central or a Westside, maybe a Grand Island or a Lincoln. I also have a problem with the funding but I don't know that the amount that we are talking about and the number of individuals that will be affected, if it is not worth it. It is interesting. We are talking about having corporations and private donors sponsor the program. I don't know, I work in that area and a lot of times they will do things for you based on the commitment that you make yourself. It is a matching sort of situation in most of the areas when we deal with foundations and private individuals. If you don't make a commitment yourself, you don't feel that the program or the effort or the institution is worth a commitment on your part, then they don't feel that they should make that same commitment or commitment of equal value themselves. So if we don't make a financial commitment to this program, if we feel that it is that important that it needs to be passed, then I think Senator Rod Johnson is right when he says the bill needs to have the money backing it. If we go to...Senator McFarland goes to private individuals, private sponsors, private foundations for money, and doesn't have any money in his pocket to take with him to say, hey, would you match this, he has a very weak argument even though he has a very strong program or strong idea that had been passed by the body. There are a number of proposals out there, one that I can think of that we are talking about being...\$40 million, I think, is the figure that Senator Vard Johnson used, we have got at least one program out there that is going to cost a million and a half dollars that we didn't budget for which will directly affect a number of people, the ETV tower that went down in Bassett which is very important and which I will probably support, but those are the kinds of things where we have to make tough decisions on how we want to spend our money, and if we are going to move in the direction where we ask for private donations and private monies to continue or to help develop this program, then I firmly believe that there has to be a commitment on our part as a policy-making body of this state to put some money where our mouth is or put some money where our legislation is, in this case, and I would urge the body to oppose the Scofield amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal, please, then Senator Elmer.